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History of Hotel Del Monte

Hotel Del Monte Grounds and Buildings collection

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Hotel Del Monte Ghosts

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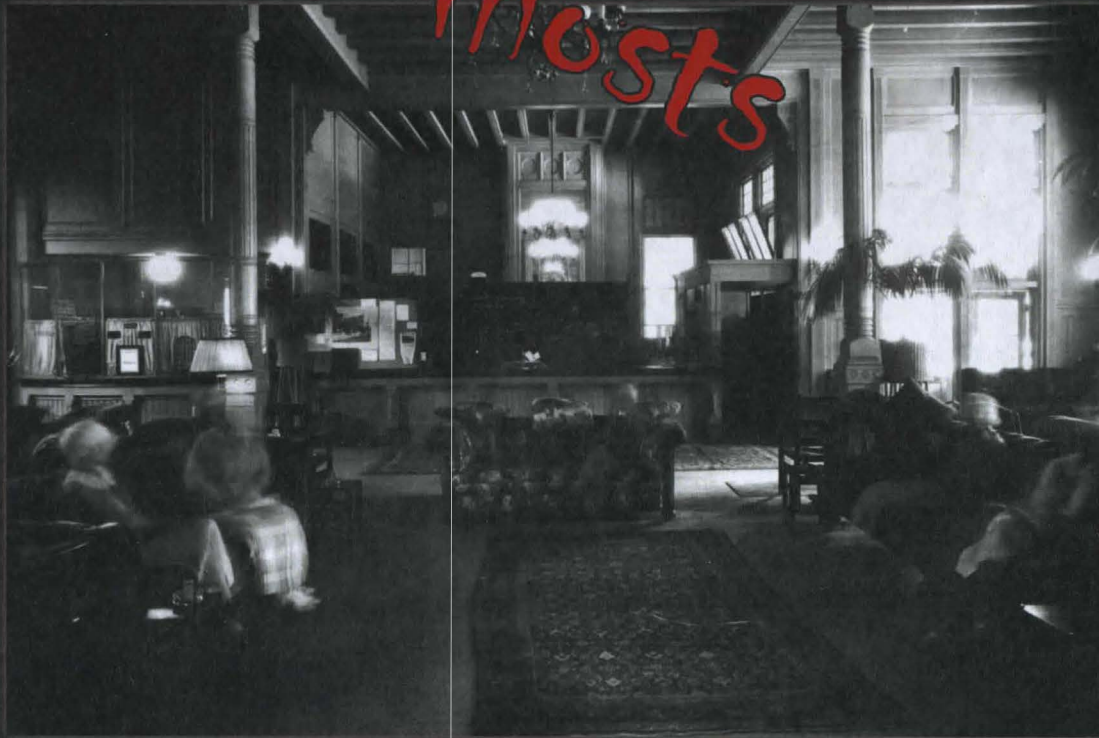
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Hotel Del Monte

Ghosts



Scene from the Hotel Del Monte lobby circa 1900

GHOSTS



Workers remove a damaged chimney after the 1906 earthquake



Hotel ruins after 1887 fire



Front structure of the hotel ablaze in 1924

The Hotel Del Monte, built originally by railroad pioneer Charles Crocker, gained quick international acclaim when it opened in 1880. Crocker's Hotel Del Monte became known as "The World's Most Elegant Seaside Resort" and it was the catalyst for today's modern recreation and tourism industry in Monterey and the western United States.

The hotel took a new course in 1919 when Samuel F. B. Morse formed Del Monte Properties Company. He purchased the Del Monte and its associated properties -- nearly 20,000 acres scattered around Monterey, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove, Carmel, and Carmel Valley that included the Pebble Beach Lodge, a hunting lodge, farm and dairy operations, and the San Clemente reservoir and water works. Morse refined the hotel's image for elegant service while transforming the resort into the world's largest sports empire.

The Navy arrived at Del Monte during World War II and later purchased it and more than 600 acres of land to provide a new home for the Naval Postgraduate School, which had been established at Annapolis with the Naval Academy. Morse then centered his business operations at Pebble Beach and later changed the corporation's name to Pebble Beach Company.

Disaster and loss have affected the Hotel Del Monte on several occasions. The first hotel was destroyed completely by fire in 1887. Crocker rebuilt and oversaw the reconstruction from an elaborate campsite on the grounds. He subsequently passed away at the Del Monte in 1888 while recuperating from a New York City carriage accident.

The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 rippled along the fault lines in Monterey and caused chimneys to collapse. A newlywed couple from Salt Lake City who had just checked into the honeymoon suite died when a chimney fell through their room.

A 1924 fire destroyed the main section of the hotel but two large wings from the Crocker era survived. One firefighter lost his life in the blaze. When Morse rebuilt, his architects developed a Spanish Mediterranean revival style and adapted the Victorian wings to the new architecture.

Ghostly encounters in Herrmann Hall have been reported by faculty, military and civilian staff, students, spouses and visitors to the Naval Postgraduate School, including numerous sightings in 2007. Some incidents might be chalked up to active imaginations but it would seem that some of the Del Monte guests have decided to stay as long as they can in "The World's Most Elegant Seaside Resort."

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Written by John Sanders and designed by MC2 Sarah Bir